

Good morning!

Loose ball plays.....they can change the whole complexion and atmosphere of a game. If it's a rivalry game, we need to be especially aware when loose ball plays happen. Take a look at one such play [here](#).

Do you have a held ball or a foul? This is a foul.....no doubt. Too many times we reward the player who piles on with a held ball. Get the foul! Imagine we stood the players on the floor upright....this would easily be a foul! Same goes when they are on the floor!

We need to have a sense of urgency when a loose ball happens. These plays are when elbows and 'gouging of eyes' can occur! Move to the spot and get the whistle when needed! These aren't just simple held ball plays, these can get rough. Make sure to see the play and again, have a sense of urgency and be aware of what is happening between players. As you blow the whistle (or a partner does), it is usually good to have two officials close down (run in) to the play to make sure nothing extra happens. Sometimes we can't control it but our presence may make a player think twice.

Extra for today.....we had a medical emergency with a spectator at a game last night. The officials used common sense (the emergency happened at halftime) by letting the emergency responders do what they needed to, then resumed halftime with ample warmup time. There is no 'set amount of time' to put on the clock in situations like this, but a decision between the officials, coaches and game management is a good procedure. If the delay is short, less time may be needed but if the delay is long, more time is probably needed. Use common sense and judgement – discuss it as a crew.

Have a great game tonight!

Tim